(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) with effect from 2.12.2001, with a view to ameliorating the conditions of urban slum dwellers living below poverty line, who do not possess adequate shelter. The scheme has the primary objective to facilitate construction and upgradation of dwelling units and to provide health and enabling urban environment through community toilets.

In addition, through National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), launched in August, 1996, as an Additional Central Assistance programme, basic infrastructure amenities such as water supply, storm water drains, community baths, paving of existing lanes, sewers, community toilets, street lights, etc. are provided.

New Trade Policy

*271. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently declared the New Trade Policy;

(b) if so, whether farm sector has been covered therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the sectors identified for employment generation and export promotion;

(e) whether Government have proposed any new incentives for export oriented units to boost the exports in 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. A Foreign Trade Policy was released on 31st August, 2004.

(b) Yes, Sir. Agriculture has been identified as one of the focus areas.

(c) to (f) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(c) Some of the benefits announced in the Foreign Trade Policy under the special package on agriculture are:

1. A new scheme called the Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) for promoting the export of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minor forest produce, and their value added products has been introduced.
2. Funds to be earmarked under ASIDE for development of Agri Export Zones.
3. Import of capital goods to be permitted duty free under the EPCG Scheme.
4. Units in AEZ to be exempt from Bank Guarantee under the EPCG Scheme.
5. Capital goods imported under EPCG to be permitted to be installed anywhere in the Agri Export Zones.
6. Import of restricted items, such as panels, to be allowed under the various Export Promotion Schemes.
7. Import of inputs such as pesticides to be permitted under the Advance Licence for agro exports.
8. New towns of export excellence with a threshold limit of Rs. 250 crore to be notified.

(d) With a view to doubling our percentage share of global trade within 5 years and expanding employment opportunities, especially in semi urban and rural areas, certain special focus initiatives have been identified for the agriculture, handlooms, handicrafts, gems and jewellery and leather sectors.

(e) and (f) Some of the new incentives announced for Export Oriented Units in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—09 are:—

1. EOUs shall be exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
2. EOUs shall be permitted to retain 100% of export earnings in EEFC accounts.
3. Income Tax benefits on plants and machinery shall be extended to DTA units which convert to EOUs.
4. Import of capital goods shall be on self-certification basis for EOUs.

5. For EOUs engaged in Textile Garments manufacture leftover materials and fabrics upto 2% of CIF value or quantity of import shall be allowed to be disposed of on payment of duty on transaction value only.

6. Minimum investment criteria shall not apply to brass hardware and hand-made jewellery EOUs (this facility already exists for handicrafts, agriculture, floriculture, aquaculture, animal husbandry, IT and services sectors).

Modernisation of DD centres

†*272 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government for development/modernization of Doordarshan centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken in this regard in Bihar during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Modernization and upgradation of facilities at Doordarshan Centres is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time, depending upon the availability of resources. Prasar Bharati has informed that full digitalization of 17 major Doordarshan Kendras and digitalization to the tune of 50% in respect of 30 smaller studio centres is envisaged during the Tenth Plan. Besides, additional studios are under construction at Raipur and Ranchi. Studio centres have also been approved for being set up at Dehradun and Gorakhpur.

(c) The satellite uplink at DDK, Patna has already been digitalized. Full digitalization of studio centre at Patna and digitalization to the tune of 50% in respect of studio centre at Muzaffarpur is envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Functioning of Counselling and De-addiction Centres

*273. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.